[English]

Karnataka-Maharashtra Boundry Dispute

2174. SHRI RAM NAIK :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the border areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra have no been developed due to the non-settlement of Karnataka-Maharashtra boundry dispute;

(b) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to resolve the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundry dispute by convening the meetings of the Chief Ministers of both the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) There is nothing to suggest that the border areas of Karnataka and Maharashtra have not been developed due to non-settlement of the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundry dispute;

(b) and (c). The Government of India has, in the past, convened meetings with the concerned State Chief Ministers.

The Government of India is of the view that the dispute has to be resolved primarily by the State Governments concerned through discussions and mutual accommodation. The Government of India would be glad to render necessary assistance to the State Governments in this regard.

[Translation]

Engines of Superfast Trains

1275. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether engines of superfast trains were imported in the past;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated a scheme to introduce some superfast trains in the future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). No locos were imported in the past specifically for superfast trains. However, 10 Nos. 3-Phase drive AC electric locos have bene imported in 1995 and 1996 which are suitable for high speed trains.

(c) and (d). Introduction of passenger trains including superfast services is a continuous percess subject to traffic justificatiion, operational feasibility and resource availability.

Fire Safety on Dhanbad Railway Line

2176. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether danger has arisen to the Dhanbad-Pathardih railway line connecting the Eastern Railway with South-Eastern Railway due to the Fire prevailing in the under-ground mines for some years;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have taken any action to check the fire and save the Railway line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) M/s Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd., (BCCL) have been advised to fill up the trench near the track at Km. 11/13-14 which had been dug quite sometime back with earth/sand and to use water for restricting the spread of the fire. This work has been taken up by M/s BCCI from 9.7.96. As an additional precautionary measure the speed restriction of 20 kmph has been imposed between Lodhna-Pathardih stations. At other points M/s BCCL have already taken remedial measures of digging the tranches and filling the same with sand and earth. This has proved effective jn containing the fire and there is no immediate danger to the track.

[English]

Decontrol of Molasses Price

2177. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister for CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that alcohol based chemicals industries are incurring losses on account of decontrol of the price of molasses and alcohol;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some State Governments have introduced partial decontrol to assist the concerned industries; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b). No complaints/representation about incurring losses by Alcohol Based Chemical Industries has been received in the recent past.

(c) and (d). Some State Governments have retained control on molasses and alcohol under existing State

Laws, the validity of some of the State Laws in regard to control of molasses have been challenged by some of the sugar mills in the Hon'ble Supreme Court by filing S.L.P. Further action by the Central Government will depend on the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Fertilizers to Farmers

2178. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the existing policy of Government 60 per cent fertilizers are being provided to the farmers by the Government agencies and 40 per cent by Private agencies; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the said policy in letter and spirit in Jammu and Kashmir State?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. Allocations of fertilizers, which are under statutory price control, are made as per the requirement of the State irrespective of the fact that a supplier is in cooperative, public or private sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Trafficking of Girls

2179. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items captioned "Cross border trafficking of girls still on the rise" which appeared in the 'Pioneer' dated May 27, 1996;

(b) whether the Government have unearthed any rampant trafficking of young girls from across the borders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to check this evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

Funds for Afforestation

2180. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of funds earmarked for afforestation during each of the last three years and for 1996-97, till date, State-wise; and

(b) the actual amount spent by each State during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Stoppage at New Coochbehar

2181. SHRI AMAR RAY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received a number of request for providing stoppage of all the trains at Coochbehar especially of the Guwahati-Calcutta Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken on these requests so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Only 2423/2424 Rajdhani Express and 3045/3046 Howrah-Guwahati-Saraighat Express are not stopping at New Coochbehar.

(c) to (e) These requests have been examined, but not found justified keeping in view the importance of these services.

Mangalore-Mumbai Rail Link

2182. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount spent so far on the Konkan Railway Project, providing rail link between Mangalore to Mumbai;

(b) the time by which the work is scheduled to the completed;

(c) the places where the work has already been completed under the said project; and

(d) the amount spent during 1995-96 on the said project and the amount required to complete the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Rs. 2063.52 crores.